

I have now found this beetle in all four of the vice-counties of central London. My records are as follows:

Hampstead Heath, TQ 265865, VC 21, Middlesex, three found under bark of black poplar tree, 16.ii.1984; River Lee, Stratford Marsh, TQ 374840, VC 18, South Essex, one found under loose bark of large black poplar, iii.1995; One-Tree hill, Honor Oak, TQ 354742, VC 17, Surrey, many under pieces of loose bark or large black poplar trees, 25.viii.1995 and xii.1995; Peckham Rye Park, TQ 348752, VC 17, Surrey, several under loose bark of large black poplar tree, ii.1996; New Cross, Railway Cutting, TQ 363763, VC 17, Surrey, several swept and many others found dead under loose bark of old black poplar tree, 27.iii.1997 and 30.iv.1997; Buckingham Palace Gardens, Westminster, VC 21, Middlesex, several by sweeping under large black poplar tree on eastern edge of lake, 15.vi.1998; Morden Cemetery, TQ 2367, VC 17, Surrey, several found by sweeping under a large black poplar tree, 10.vi.1998 and 15.vii.1998; Beddington Corner, TQ 2866, VC 17, Surrey, several by beating black poplar trees, 21.v.1998; Downham Woodland Walk, TQ 397723, VC 16, West Kent, several under dead bark of large black poplar tree 5.v.1999; Sudbury Town, TQ 176844, VC 21, Middlesex, several under loose sycamore bark, 18.x.1999, (there were some Lombardy poplars nearby which may have been the true host trees); Heron Island, Battersea Park, TQ 281770, VC 17, Surrey, one found by sweeping, 6.vii.2000.— RICHARD A. JONES, 135 Friern Road, East Dulwich, London SE22 0AZ (E-mail: bugmanjones@hotmail.com).

***Laricobius erichsoni* Rosenhauer (Col.: Derodontidae) from Aberdeenshire**

Peacock (1993. Adults and larvae of hide, larder and carpet beetles and their relatives (Coleoptera: Dermestidae) and of Derodontid Beetles (Coleoptera: Derodontidae). *Handbk. Ident. Br. Insects* 5(3)), lists the localities from which *Laricobius erichsoni* has been recorded since its original discovery in Great Britain in 1971. Further records from Herefordshire and Shropshire are noted by Alexander (1999. *Laricobius erichsoni* Rosehhauer (Derodontidae) in Herefordshire and Shropshire. *Coleopterist* 8(1): 37).

I found two specimens of this beetle in a Malaise trap situated in farmland at Duncanstone in Aberdeenshire (grid reference NJ 5626) on 30.iv.1999, and a few days later a third specimen, partially disintegrated, in a puddle of water in a wheelbarrow some 200 metres distant. These captures coincided with an unseasonable spell of warm weather and I presumed that they derived from a spring dispersal flight. The beetle and its larval stages are predators of woolly aphids on conifers and there are extensive mixed conifer plantations in the area, although the nearest of these is around three kilometres away. However, on 30.ix.1999 I found another specimen in the Malaise trap and in April of 2000 two more individuals were captured, one in

a water butt and the other on a fence post. These were close to a small stand of young Larch *Larix decidua*. A careful search of the Larch revealed no further specimens nor have I found any in the neighbouring coniferous woodlands.

In Scotland this beetle has been found mainly in the lowlands although Lyszkowski (1987. Seven species of Coleoptera apparently unrecorded from Scotland. *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **123**: 250), discovered it in West Inverness in 1984.

It is likely from my records that a substantial population probably exists in North Aberdeenshire. ARTHUR W. EWING, Wester Duncanstone, Inch, Aberdeenshire AB52 6YX (E-mail : arthur-ewing@beeb.net).

An old record of *Melandrya barbata* (Fabr.) (Col.: Melandryidae) from North Hampshire

British records of the saproxylic beetle *Melandrya barbata* are very few, and this species is categorised as *Red Data Book* category 1 (Endangered) in Hyman & Parsons (1992. *A review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain*, U.K. Nature Conservation 3. JNCC). The only certain British records are from the New Forest, South Hampshire and Chiddingfold, Surrey (Allen, 1972, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **108**: 172). As a result of examining material in the Tomlin collection at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, two specimens of this species were found.

One specimen is labelled Rhinefield, New Forest, June 1896, Jackson. The other specimen is labelled Stratfield Turgis, 1914, J. Coventry. This locality is in North Hampshire very close to Stratfield Saye Park and other well wooded areas.— BRIAN LEVEY, Department of Biodiversity & Systematic Biology, National Museums & Galleries of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP.

Moths on buses

Working in the passenger transport business, I often find moths on buses whilst servicing the vehicles at night. This has caused a dilemma for submitting my records! Do I record the bus garage as the locality, or look to see which route the vehicle was on during the day and choose a point along that route? Any help on this matter would be appreciated; at present, I am ignoring any moths actually found on the buses no matter how interesting they are.

The garage in question is at Bexleyheath, in north-western Kent at grid reference TQ 497757. The exterior lights around the garage are a mixture of sodium, fluorescent and halogen types and have provided some good records. Some of the most interesting during 2000 have been the Maiden's Blush *Cyclophora punctaria*, the Small Blood-vein *Scopula imitaria*, the Least Carpet *Idaea rusticata*, the Large Ranunculus *Polymixis flavicineta*, the Buttoned Snout *Hypena rostralis* and Leopard Moth *Zeuzera pyrina*.— TONY STEELE, 57 Westfield Road, Barnehurst, Kent DA7 6LR.